B. **Amendments to the Claims**

Claims 1-31 (cancelled)

32. (currently amended) A method for use in managing taxonomic information, comprising:

identifying a first name that specifies an organism;

determining that the name is sufficiently similar to a text string of a name entry in a names table;

identifying a first taxonomic identifier of the name entry;

determining that the first taxonomic identifier is included in a classification entry in a classification table allowing taxa to be organized according to more than one classification;

identifying a second taxonomic identifier of the classification entry; and

based on the second taxonomic identifier, identifying a second name.

33. (original) The method of claim 32, further comprising:

deriving, based on the second name and original search parameters based on the first name, revised search parameters.

Claims 34-37 (cancelled)

38. (original) A system for use in managing taxonomic information, comprising:

a name identifier configured to identify a first name that specifies an organism,

a determiner configured to determine that the name is sufficiently similar to a text string of a name entry in a names table;

an identifier configured to identify a first taxonomic ID of the name entry;

another determiner configured to determine that the first taxonomic ID is included in a classification entry in a classification table;

a second identifier configured to identify a second taxonomic ID of the classification entry; and

a third identifier configured to identify, based on the second taxonomic ID, a second name.

39. (original) Computer software, residing on a computer-readable storage medium, comprising a set of instructions for use in a computer system to help cause the computer system to manage taxonomic information, the set of instructions for causing the computer system to:

identify a first name that specifies an organism;

determine that the name is sufficiently similar to a text string of a name entry in a names table;

identify a first taxonomic ID of the name entry;

determine that the first taxonomic ID is included in a classification entry in a classification table;

identify a second taxonomic ID of the classification entry; and

identify, based on the second taxonomic ID, a second name.

40. (new) A system for use in managing taxonomic information, comprising:

a names table in which each entry associates a character string with a name identifier;

a taxon table in which each entry associates a name identifier with a taxon identifier;

a database of classifications that accommodates alternative classifications, the database including:

a reference table in which each entry associates a classification identifier with a taxon that represents the root of the classification; and

a classification table in which each entry associates a taxon identifier with a classification identifier, a relationship attribute, and a second taxon identifier;

a name identifier configured to identify a name that specifies an organism;

a determiner configured to use the name and a database of classifications to help determine a classification for the organism; and

an identifier configured to use the classification to help identify information associated with the organism.

41. (new) A method for use in managing taxonomic information, comprising:

providing a database including:

a names table in which each entry associates a character string with a name identifier;

a taxon table in which each entry associates a name identifier with a taxon identifier; and

a database of classifications that accommodates alternative classifications, the database including:

a reference table in which each entry associates a classification identifier with a taxon that represents the root of the classification; and

a classification table in which each entry associates a taxon identifier with a classification identifier, a relationship attribute, and a second taxon identifier;

identifying a name that specifies an organism; and

based on the name and a database of organism classifications, determining a classification for the organism.

42. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the method further comprises:

based on the classification, identifying information associated with the organism.

43. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the name is a polynomen.

44. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the name is a modern name.

45. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the name is a trinomen.

46. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the name is a scientific name.

47. (new) The method of claim 41, the name is a non-scientific name.

48. (new) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

receiving a request for information including the name; and

based on the request, selecting a database access layer to receive the request.

49. (new) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

receiving a request for information including the name; and

directing the request to an application layer for serving client functions.

50. (new) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

receiving a request for information including the name; and

directing the request to a data layer to determine a unique identifier associated with the organism.

51. (new) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

identifying a textual description associated with the organism.

52. (new) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

identifying an illustration associated with the organism.

53. (new) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

identifying a multimedia data object associated with the organism.

54. (new) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

identifying a data pointer associated with the organism.

55. (new) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

basing the identification of the information on a defined domain of information.

56. (new) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

determining a biological classification for the organism.

57. (new) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

determining a geographical classification for the organism.

58. (new) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

determining a non-biological classification for the organism.

59. (new) The method of claim 58, further comprising

identifying information associated with another organism that belongs to the classification.

60. (new) A method for use in managing taxonomic information, comprising:

identifying a first name that specifies an organism;

associating a first taxon with the first name;

determining that the first taxon is included in a classification entry in a classification
database, the classification database allowing taxa to be organized according to more that
one classification; and

associating a second taxon with the classification entry.

61. (new) A distributed system for use in managing taxonomic information, comprising:

at least one primary server having a first part of a distributed database, and

at least one secondary server in communication with the at least one primary server and
having a second part of the distributed database; each server comprising:

a name identifier configured to identify a first name that specifies an organism,

a determiner configured to determine that the name is sufficiently similar to a text
string of a name entry in a names table;

an identifier configured to identify a first taxonomic ID of the name entry;

another determiner configured to determine that the first taxonomic ID is included in a classification entry in a classification table;

a second identifier configured to identify a second taxonomic ID of the classification entry; and

a third identifier configured to identify, based on the second taxonomic ID, a second name;

the primary server having authority to make changes to parts of the distributed database and the secondary server not having authority to make changes to the distributed database.

62. (new) The system of claim 40, wherein the name is a polynomen.

63. (new) The system of claim 40, wherein the name is a modern name.

64. (new) The system of claim 40, wherein the name is a trinomen.

65. (new) The system of claim 40, wherein the name is a scientific name.

66. (new) The system of claim 40, the name is a non-scientific name.

67. (new) A method for use in managing taxonomic information, comprising:

identifying a first name that specifies an organism;

associating the first name with a name identifier; and

associating a second name with the first name identifier based on objectively derived criteria.

68. (new) The method of claim 67, wherein the objectively derived criteria includes a documented associated between the first name and the second name.

69. (new) The method of claim 68, wherein the first name is a scientific name and the second name is a common name.

70. (new) The method of claim 68 wherein the first and second names are scientific names and wherein the second name is a factual variant of the first name.

71. (new) A distributed system for use in locating information resources related to biological organisms, the system comprising:

a set of client software for communicating with information management applications serving unique name identifiers associated with unique information identifiers;

a first determiner to determine that a first unique name identifier is included within one or more classification entries in a classification table on a remote name server;

a second determiner to determine a second unique name identifier is associated with the first unique name identifier within a names table on a remote name server; and

a set of service software for distributing unique name identifiers associated with unique associated information identifiers as a proxy for one or more information management applications.